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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Int'l Application No: PCT/US99/08975

Int'l Filing Date: 23 April 1999

U.S. Application No:

Priority Date Claimed: 24 April 1998

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner:

Title: RECOMBINANT SECOISOLARICIRESINOL DEHYDROGENASE, AND METHODS OF USE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification and claims of the above-identified patent application, which is the contemporaneously filed United States national application corresponding to International Application No. PCT/US99/08975:

In the Specification:

Amend the specification by inserting the following after the title: --This is a United States national stage application of International Application No. PCT/US99/08975, filed April 23, 1999, the benefit of the filing date of which is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120, which in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/082,977, filed April 24, 1998, the benefit of the filing date of which is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119.--.

In the Claims:

1. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase protein that hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:9 or to the antisense complement of any member of the group consisting of SEQ ID